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Description

"Separate billing of private and service-related calls on mobile
telephones"

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The invention relates to methods and devices for billing a call made
by a user of a mobile radio terminal via the mobile radio terminal
and a mobile radio network.

10   Mobile radio terminals (mobile telephones / cell phones) are
frequently used partly for private calls and partly for service-
related calls, which for correct billing requires separate invoicing
for private and service-related phone calls (voice calls and short
messages, etc).

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To date the problem has been solved in various ways. Firstly the
customer could carry two mobile telephones with him, one for
service-related calls and one for private calls, and hence receives
two invoices. Furthermore it is possible to make service-related and
20   private calls with one mobile radio terminal and to manually mark
private calls and service-related calls on the monthly invoice, and
where appropriate to settle up with the employer. Furthermore,
mobile radio network operators offer a mobile radio card containing
two mobile radio subscriber identities, making possible an invoice
25   split up in accordance with the two mobile radio subscriber
identities (and hence split up by service-related calls and private
calls), but this requires that the telephone is switched off between
a service-related call and a private call, and then switched on
again, so that it can log on with the respective other mobile radio
30   subscriber identity. Furthermore it is possible for a mobile radio
subscriber to carry with him just one mobile telephone but two
mobile radio subscriber identity cards and to swap these as
appropriate. However, these approaches are inconvenient.

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Claims

1. Method for billing (8) a call (4) made by a user (1) of a mobile radio terminal (3) via the mobile radio terminal (3) and a mobile

5   radio network (6),
wherein based on an entry (2) made by the user (1) and determined by the mobile radio terminal (3) as to whether a call (4) is to be billed as service-related or private, a message representing this entry (2) is sent (4) to the mobile radio network (5).

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2. Method according to Claim 1, wherein the message (4) is a short message.

3. Method according to Claim 1, wherein the message is a USSD.

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4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the message contains identity details, in particular MSISDN or IMSI concerning the mobile radio terminal user (1).

20   5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the entry (2) can be made before or during or after a call.

6. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein on the mobile radio network side (5,6) data representing the entry (2) is

25   assigned by a billing computer (8) to a call and the next time an invoice is produced is taken into account for splitting the invoice into private and service-related calls.

7. Mobile radio terminal, in particular for carrying out the method

30   according to one of the preceding claims, wherein it has at least one assignable key (2), whereby the mobile radio terminal is

designed such that when the key (2) is actuated a message is sent to a mobile radio network (5,6) regarding the service-related or private nature of a call made from the mobile radio terminal (3).

5   8. Mobile radio terminal according to Claim 7, wherein the key is a softkey of the mobile radio terminal (3).

9. Mobile radio subscriber identity module for a mobile radio terminal (3), wherein it is designed such that when an entry is made
10 into the mobile radio terminal (3) regarding the service-related or private nature of a call made from the mobile radio terminal (3), identity details representing the identity (SIM, IMSI) of the mobile radio subscriber identity module together with information representing the service-related or private nature of the call are
15 sent in a message (4) to the mobile radio network (7).